

Nothing fishy

Back River Fish Market closes its doors without warning

By Andria Farrell
ANFARREL@CNC.COM

There is something fishy going on, or better yet, there is nothing fishy going on. With a message that says it is closed with no plans of re-opening, and a "closed sign" on the door, the Back River Fish Market has disappeared from Duxbury.

According to Millbrook Market owner Gary Durant, the Back River Fish Market, owned by John Payne, closed its doors around Veterans Day without a word to its long-standing neighbor. He said patrons of the fish market have been coming into his store asking about the closing. Durant himself said he doesn't know why they closed.

The Back River Fish Market is located behind Millbrook Market on Railroad Avenue on LAND owned by Ben Goodrich. As part of a joint partnership between Goodrich, and Sylvia and Sylvia, they had plans of renovating the Millbrook store area. The 51,000-square-foot project will incorporate two separate buildings on Railroad Avenue and St. George Street. The proposed plans features apartments on the upper level of the buildings. The lower level of the buildings will remain in commercial use. The Board of Health denied the plans in June of 2007 because of septic system issues.

Beth Jordan, public relations person for Sylvia and Sylvia, said the Sylvia brothers were also shocked to find out the fish market had closed. The Back River Fish Market was the only tenant guaranteed space in the renovated building because of their existing lease. Durant believed they still had approximately 13 years left on the lease.

"The fish market went out of business, it didn't have anything to do with project," Jordan said. "Just all of sudden it closed down that's all I know. He had a long lease, unfortunately something happened to the business, he shut down the fish market and will not be reopening. It was a great little business, it's a shame it didn't work out for them."

Many of the tenants in the Goodrich

Fish shop snuts down

FROM FISHY, PAGE 1

property building have already left due to a small increase in rents. Although the others were suppose to be out by the end of the year, the Millbrook Market and Duxbury Package Store have been given six months, with up to a year extension, Jordan said. She said every six months they are looking at the building and seeing where to go from there, until the Sylvia brothers complete a new plan they will continue to let the tenants stay.

Anne Murray, Department Secretary to the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager said she submitted license renewal forms to the Back River Fish Market but heard no response. When she sent out e-mails to all the business about the license agreement they had responded, but did not send it in their renewal and never mentioned closing.

Payne bought Back River Fish Market from his stepbrother Daryl Danfurt, who bought the store from Don Merry, of Island Creek Oysters, in 2000.